

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

BROADWAY AT FLOREY

KILGORE, TEXAS



December 2016-January 2017

THE PILGRIMAGE

Mission Statement: Pilgrim Lutheran Church is to glorify God in proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with Word and deed in our midst, in our community, and throughout the world.

God's Christmas gift of His Son for us is perfectly complete

Dear Members and Friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church,

A number of years ago, I gave my mother a Kuerig coffee maker and other associated items for Christmas and her birthday that follows in January. She opened the coffee maker first, then a supply of pods for the brewer, then the spindle to store and display the pods, and finally a reusable K-cup for her to use her own grounds. When she was done, she had a perfectly complete Kuerig system, at least until those pods and her own grounds needed replenishing. Similarly I can remember as a boy opening Hot Wheels tracks, cars, case, and launchers and thereby ending up with a complete Hot Wheels system, at least until I broke or lost the associated pieces. Over the years perhaps you also have given or received a number of such gifts that in a sense are only complete when taken all together.

As we reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation and Nativity of our Lord, we appropriately marvel at the Almighty Second Person of the Blessed Trinity's taking on human flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary and being born in such a lowly fashion as to be laid in a manger. Yet, as marvelous as our Lord's Incarnation and Nativity for us are, ultimately they would do us little good if our Lord was not also crucified and resurrected for us. The Baby Jesus in the manger may be all cute and cuddly, but the Man Jesus on the cross can be horrific and off-putting. Yet, we need both Jesus's Incarnation and Crucifixion in order to be saved from the sins that otherwise would damn us to eternal torment in hell. And, God did not leave us one without the other: His Christmas gift of His Son for us is perfectly complete.

Thanks be to God the Father that He sent His Only-begotten Son into human flesh to be born, die, and rise for us. Thanks be to God the Father that He also sent His Holy Spirit to reveal the Son's work to us and thereby create in us faith that trusts the Father to forgive us our sin for the sake of His Son. Through God's Word in all its forms—including Holy Baptism, individual Holy Absolution, and the Sacrament of the Altar—God creates in us repentance and faith that receives His perfectly-complete gift. We do nothing but passively receive the gift—batteries included, no assembly required, nothing sold separately.

The reading and preaching of God's Word create saving faith (Romans 10:5-17). The Word with the water of Holy Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to all who believe (1 Peter 3:21). Words spoken by the successors to the apostles forgive the sins of individuals (John 20:22-23). And, the Word with bread and wine

Article continues on following page.

Article continues from preceding page.

give us Jesus's Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation (Matthew 26:26-28). Each means of grace in and of itself is arguably sufficient, and yet God gives us His Son and all the associated blessings in more than one way. We do not despise any one means but gladly hear and learn and use His Word in all its forms.

As was the case for the people of the Old Testament with such things as Circumcision and Passover, we people of the New Testament have Sacraments unique in their own ways if not in the general blessings that they give. As with Circumcision, Holy Baptism brings one into the Kingdom of God. As with Passover, the Sacrament of the Altar sustains one with food for the way through this life. Individual Holy Absolution works in between the two, not as a plank of a second chance from a wrecked-ship of a Baptism but as a returning to Holy Baptism's clean slate and a pointing forward and admission to the Sacrament of the Altar's sustenance.

This Advent let us with repentance and faith prepare for the celebration of our Lord's Nativity, even as He continues to come to us in His Word and Sacraments and as we look forward to His Final Coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. God's Christmas gift of His Son for us is perfectly complete. He has done all that needs to be done and gives us the fruits of His labors in ways any one of which might be sufficient on its own but that we nevertheless receive together for forgiveness, life, and salvation. These gifts do not need replenishing, break, or get lost but, like the Savior and His work that they convey, they are perfectly complete.

*His and your servant,
Pastor Galler*

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

04 – Jack Watts
07 – John Morton
15 – Toni Erickson
16 – Andrew Adair
17 – Leroy Thomas
18 – John Walker
20 – Anna Hooge
21 – Laticia Smith
25 – Bryn Heil



HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES!

15 – Ron and Carolyn Morton
17 – Don and Beth Nicol
22 – Wayne and Betty Miller
26 – Wendell and Carolyn Holcombe



The start of the new Church Year, Advent is a season of repentant preparation for the annual celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord in the season of Christmas. While we should live each day with sorrow over our sins and trust that God forgives our sins for Jesus's sake, we especially focus on such repentance in this season, especially as Jesus comes to us now and will come a final time in the future. Advent is often said to focus on the Lord Jesus's past coming in human flesh in order to die for our sins, His present coming in Word and Sacrament to forgive our sins, and His future coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. The specific themes of our Sunday Divine Services and Midweek Vespers Services do not exactly correspond, however.

The following are the Sundays in Advent 2016, using the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, as we follow *Lutheran Service Book's* Three-year Lectionary Series A.

- First Sunday (11/27): Jesus comes as our humble King (Matthew 21:1-11)
- Second Sunday (12/04): Jesus's way is prepared by John the Baptizer (Matthew 3:1-12)
- Third Sunday (12/11): Jesus assures John and us Who He is (Matthew 11:2-15)
- Fourth Sunday (12/18): Jesus's birth foretold to His guardian Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

The 10:45 a.m. Sunday services this Church Year are using *LSB's* Divine Service, Setting Four.

The Lectionary Series does not appoint any Readings for midweek Advent services, so this year we have assembled Psalms, Readings and Hymns under the theme "Living among the Bible's Trees", focusing on the reason for our Lord's coming, prophecy of it, His coming, and the benefit of His Final coming, respectively, as follows.

- Advent I (11/30): Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
- Advent II (12/07): Tree of the Lord's Planting
- Advent III (12/14): Tree of the Cross
- Advent IV (12/21): Tree of Life

The 7:00 p.m. Wednesday services this Church Year are again using *LSB's* order of Vespers.

The blue color of the cloths on the font, lectern, pulpit, and altar, as well as the pastor's stole, represents hope and anticipation and serves to help distinguish Advent from Lent.

All are welcome to attend every service at Pilgrim or to listen to the sermons at www.pilgrimlc.org. And, watch that site for more about December and January's other seasons.

Pastor Galler

Thanks go to Carla Adsit for creating the banner graphic at the top of this page from images found online.

DECEMBER EVENTS

YOUTH CATECHESIS is currently scheduled for Saturdays December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 11:00 a.m. in Pastor's Study (not December 24th and 31st due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays).

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PARTY: Sunday, December 4th, at 4:00 p.m. at the Watts home in Waskom. Traditionally, the LWML society members provide meat dishes, and everyone else brings their favorite Christmas goodies. Directions to the Watts' home follow:

East on I-20 to exit 628

Right at exit 628, 200 feet to Frontage Road

Left onto frontage road, 0.3 miles to Ireland Williams Rd.

Right onto Ireland Williams Road, 1.2 miles to Watts' residence

(1 story light brick ranch house with a tan steel roof)

MIDWEEK ADVENT VESPERS SERVICES: Wednesdays December 7th, 14th, and 21st at 7:00 p.m. with the theme "Living among the Bible's Trees" (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). Tree trimming will be after the service on December 21st.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AS OUR ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING?

Anyone interested in being one of Santa's helpers, as it were? We need someone to volunteer to organize us and contact the three Kilgore nursing homes to see if we could maybe carol there Sunday, December 11th after the Divine Service and lunch (on your own or together). In the past we went caroled at all three Kilgore-area nursing facilities and returned to Pilgrim for hot cocoa available to all. All would be welcome to join in!



ELDERS' MEETING is Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library. (Please come having read and being prepared to discuss SA III:i, pp.270-271.)

LWML BIRTHDAY PARTY: Wednesday, December 21st, at 2:30 p.m. at Kilgore Health and Rehab at 2700 S. Henderson Boulevard in Kilgore. We will need three cakes and volunteers to help serve them to the residents. To help with cakes or serving, please contact Sharon Sampson.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF READINGS AND HYMNS: Join us Saturday, December 24th at 6:00 p.m. (note the special time) for what has become a Pilgrim tradition.

CHRISTMAS DAY DIVINE SERVICE: Since Christmas falls on Sunday this year, we will have our regular 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class, followed by our 10:45 Divine Service. What better way to celebrate Christmas than with a Mass of Christ?

EVE OF THE NAMING OF JESUS: Divine Service will be offered as usual at 7:00 p.m. New Year's Eve at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (1300 Judson Road in Longview).

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will meet December 28th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (not December's other Wednesdays due to Midweek Advent Services).

LWML will not quilt or meet in December due to the congregational Christmas party.

DECEMBER	
1	Luke 1:46-55 Revelation 1-2
2	Psalm 1 Rev. 3-5
3	Psalm 2 Revelation 6-8
4	Psalm 3 Revelation 9-11
5	Psalm 4 Rev. 12-14
6	Psalm 5 Rev. 15-17
7	Psalm 6 Rev. 18-20
8	Psalm 7 Rev. 21-22
9	Psalm 8 Isaiah 1-3
10	Psalm 9 Isaiah 4-6
11	Psalm 10 Isaiah 7-9
12	Psalm 11 Isaiah 10-12
13	Psalm 12 Isaiah 13-15
14	Psalm 13 Isaiah 16-18
15	Psalm 14 Isaiah 19-21
16	Psalm 15 Isaiah 22-24
17	Psalm 16 Isaiah 25-27
18	Psalm 17 Isaiah 28-30
19	Psalm 18 Isaiah 31-33
20	Psalm 19 Isaiah 34-36
21	Psalm 20 Isaiah 37-39
22	Psalm 21 Isaiah 40-42
23	Psalm 22 Isaiah 43-45
24	Psalm 23 Isaiah 46-48
25	Psalm 24 Isaiah 49-51
26	Psalm 25 Isaiah 52-54
27	Psalm 26 Isaiah 55-57
28	Psalm 27 Isaiah 58-60
29	Psalm 28 Isaiah 61-63
30	Psalm 29 Isaiah 64-66
31	Luke 1:46-55

JANUARY	
1	Luke 1:68-79 Mark 2
2	Psalm 30 Mark 3
3	Psalm 31 Mark 4
4	Psalm 32 Mark 5
5	Psalm 33 Mark 6
6	Psalm 34 Mark 7
7	Psalm 35 Mark 8
8	Psalm 36 Mark 9
9	Psalm 37 Mark 10
10	Psalm 38 Mark 11
11	Psalm 39 Mark 12
12	Psalm 40 Mark 13
13	Psalm 41 Mark 14
14	Psalm 42 Mark 15-16
15	Psalm 43 Genesis 1-3
16	Psalm 44 Genesis 4-6
17	Psalm 45 Genesis 7-9
18	Psalm 46 Genesis 10-12
19	Psalm 47 Genesis 13-15
20	Psalm 48 Genesis 16-18
21	Psalm 49 Genesis 19-21
22	Psalm 50 Genesis 22-24
23	Psalm 51 Genesis 25-27
24	Psalm 52 Genesis 28-30
25	Psalm 53 Genesis 31-33
26	Psalm 54 Genesis 34-36
27	Psalm 55 Genesis 37-39
28	Psalm 56 Genesis 40-42
29	Psalm 57 Genesis 43-45
30	Psalm 58 Genesis 46-48
31	Luke 1:68-79

Daily Bible Reading keeps giving

The month of December brings us to the official start of another year of Daily Bible Reading, and I again encourage everyone to follow the reading plan and participate in the various forms of discussion available. Based on ancient models, the plan reproduced in the adjacent boxes (and in larger-print versions available in the Narthex) comes from *Lutheran Worship* (pages 295-296) and takes us through the whole Bible in one year by our reading essentially a psalm and about three chapters of another book each day. The gift of Daily Bible Reading is a gift that keeps on giving as the Holy Spirit works through God's Word of Holy Scripture to both indict us of our sin and forgive our sin by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Another gift of a sort is the following Question and Answer related to our reading of the so-called Minor Prophets in November.

Q: Do we know anything more about the many minor prophets, such as from where they were called, whether their prophesying was full or part-time, how they were received, and what became of the men such as Jonah, whose book ends rather ambiguously?

A: Our greatest sources of information about the twelve so-called "minor prophets" are their own works, short enough that they could be combined on one scroll and grouped under that one heading. Few of them get so much as a mention in other books of the Bible. The men came from various places to prophesy in the northern kingdom of Israel, the southern kingdom of Judah, or perhaps in some case both kingdoms, to the extent we know at all. Just because their literary records preserved for us are short does not mean we should think that they did not do enough other prophesying to "work full-time". Like the other prophets with greater or no literary record, none of the minor prophets was received particularly-well by their contemporary hearers. And, as perhaps befitting those whose messages were of greatest importance, the Bible does not tell us what became of most of them, although there are some works outside of the Bible that claim to have other details about their lives.

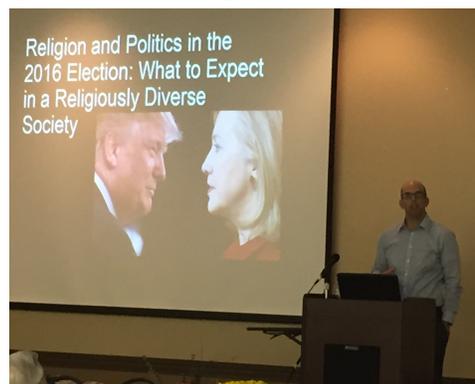
You can ask me your questions about your Bible reading whenever and however you like. You can also find other Q&A by following the links at <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/daily-bible-reading>. While the Daily Bible Reading year officially begins December 1, you can jump in at any time. Those so reading report God's blessing them!

Pastor Galler

Speakers see hope despite religious and political divisions

America can move on from a very divisive election season because there is more that unites us than divides us, so-said Kilgore College government instructor Jeff Stanglin, J.D., the main speaker at a Third Annual Symposium in Kilgore held from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 30, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom at Kilgore College, with the theme “Religion and Politics in the 2016 Election: What to Expect in a Religiously Diverse Society”.

Just days before the 2016 election, Stanglin’s main presentation initially offered definitions of religious diversity and surveyed religious diversity’s impact on politics, especially forcing U.S. courts to resolve conflicts over the First Amendment’s clauses against the establishment of religion and in favor of religion’s free exercise. Then, Stanglin turned to the 2016 election, briefly treating the candidates, what might be expected from voters, and a change in how church-state issues are viewed before wrapping up with his view of how America moves on from the election, regardless of who wins. (Online you can find an audio recording of Stanglin’s presentation and a handout of his PowerPoint slides.)



Kilgore College government instructor Jeff Stanglin begins his presentation by praising the free-exchange of ideas in America. *Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.*



St. Luke’s United Methodist Pastor Darwood Galaway (left) responds to the presentation by Jeff Stanglin (right), while Pilgrim Lutheran’s Pastor Jayson Galler (center) listens intently.

Photo: Barbara Wuthrich.

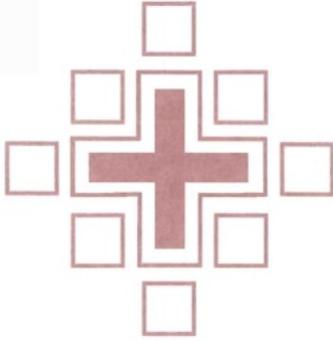
After a break, there were responses to Stanglin’s presentation from St. Luke United Methodist’s Pastor Darwood Galaway and Pilgrim Lutheran’s Pastor Jayson Galler, both of whom also expressed hope, albeit different hopes, for the religiously and politically divided country. (First Baptist’s Pastor Glenn Young was unable to participate due to a family crisis.) Then, moderated by Terry Booker, the two pastors and Stanglin answered questions from the audience, which consisted of nearly 75 people across a wide range of ages. (An audio recording of the panel response and audience questions is also available online.)

The vast majority of those who evaluated the Symposium (about one-third of those attending) somewhat or strongly agreed that the Symposium was

worthwhile, interesting and relevant, formatted appropriately, on a suitable date and time, and in a fitting facility.

Connected to the anniversary of the October 31, 1517, Reformation, this 2016 Symposium was the third in a series, the purpose of which is to seek a deeper understanding of one another in our various church communities. Through the mutual sharing of knowledge and ideas, organizers believe that the Holy Spirit will draw people closer to that union that Christ desires for all (John 17:21-23).

A Fourth Annual Symposium in Kilgore is planned for Sunday, October 29, 2017, also from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and in the Devall Student Center Ballroom. The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler is expected to make the main presentation, tentatively titled “The Reformation at 500 years”.



Setting Four is our newest liturgy

Lutheran Service Book's Divine Service, Setting Four, is not only new to Pilgrim's use in the 2016-2017 Church Year, but the liturgy is also the hymnal's newest Divine Service Setting overall. Settings One and Two were developed for the 1982 *Lutheran Worship*, Setting Three goes back at least as far as the 1941 *The Lutheran Hymnal*, Setting Five largely goes back to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther's 1526 German Mass (confer *LW's* Divine Service Three), but Setting Four, while to some extent

following that example, is a revised form of the Divine Service liturgy developed in the 1990s for *Hymnal Supplement '98*, a product of the early work in the 1990s preparing what eventually was published in 2006 as *Lutheran Service Book*.

One might immediately note that there are fewer chanted/sung exchanges between the pastor and people. Some have said that Setting Four is at least partially intended more for those congregations that perhaps had not been using other liturgical settings. Yet, Pilgrim will continue to exercise options within Setting Four that have us singing both the propers (the parts of the liturgy "proper" to a particular given Sunday) and the ordinaries (the parts of the liturgy that "ordinarily" are used regardless of the given Sunday). An intended feature of Setting Four is that the sung portions are more like hymns than like what are called "through-composed" canticles that we may be more used to singing in the other Settings. (The term "through-composed" refers to the music's being relatively continuous, non-sectional, and/or non-repetitive, essentially different for each stanza, in contrast to a hymn, where each stanza is the same meter and uses the same music.) Notably, we at Pilgrim learned all the tunes for Setting Four prior to our starting its use.

You might find the following other comments helpful as we begin using Setting Four.

- **Confession and Absolution**: The Setting is drawn in part both from the 1525 Nürnberg Mass of Andreas Döber and from the work of our sister Synod in Germany. Note how the pastor's address culminates in the words of the publican from Luke 18:13.
- **Introit**: After the previous year of using the appointed Psalm for the entrance, for this Church Year the Elders and I decided we would use the appointed Introits (found on the bulletin insert). We may opt for Entrance Hymns in the next Church Year, as in years past.
- **Kyrie**: Different from *HS '98*, the melody is by Amanda Husberg (b.1940), and the simple three-fold response in the pew edition of *LSB* will be expanded to the more familiar form at least in Advent. Other expansions and options are available and may be used at other times during this Church Year.
- **Gloria in Excelsis**: The text and tune are different from *HS '98*, with Stephen Starke's text said to be a "more faithful" versification and the tune a German folk song arranged here by Paul J. Grime (b.1958) (the tune is used only here in *LSB*). The hymn of praise is omitted in the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, which also heightens its reappearance in the Christmas and Easter seasons. During Easter and at the end of the Church Year, at least *HS '98* allowed that a version of the *Dignus est* ("Worthy is Christ" of Revelation 5 and 19) could be used instead of the *Gloria* (see 799, 800, and 950).

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- Gradual: We continue to sing the selected verses found on the bulletin insert. The practice of singing Psalm verses between Readings predates the time of Jesus.
- Alleluia and Verse: While there is much to commend the appropriate verse from John 20:31, we may benefit more from using the appointed verse, usually from the Gospel of the day, which thereby helps focus more on an emphasis of the day. The congregation sings its portion, to a tune by Howard Hughes (b.1930), both before and after the singing of the appointed verse, similar to an option we exercised with Setting Three.
- Creed: You may note that the Creed is placed before the Sermon in Setting Four. We will continue to use the Nicene Creed during the festival seasons, such as when non-green paraments are used, and change to the Apostles' Creed during the non-festival seasons, such as when the green paraments are used.
- Offertory: Setting Four notably does not appoint an Offertory. We resisted the temptation to add one into the order given by *LSB*.
- Preface: While we may be used to a "Proper Preface" that changes generally with the Season, in Setting Four the Preface, based on the liturgical reform of Laurentius Petri (1499-1573), the first Lutheran bishop of Sweden, is common to all Seasons and Sundays.
- Sanctus: The text is by Stephen P. Starke (b.1955), and the tune THINE is by Carl F. Schalk (b.1929) (the tune is also used with 680, with which we have sung it recently).
- Prayer of Thanksgiving: This Prayer that is an ordinary in Settings One and Two has options for the different seasons and festivals.
- Agnus Dei: The text is by Stephen P. Starke (b.1955), and the tune ANGELUS is by Georg Joseph (c.1630-c.1668) (we have sung the tune with 831, 844, and 920).
- Nunc Dimittis: Stanza 1 is by Ernest Ryden (1886-1981), and stanza 2 is by Stephen P. Starke (b.1955); the tune KUORTANE is a Finnish folksong arranged here by Joseph Herl (b.1959) (we have sung the tune with 855). (With stanza 2 being Trinitarian and doxological, it seems to me to need an "Amen", but we will sing it as is.)

We certainly pray that God blesses our use of Setting Four throughout this Church Year. And, you may be interested to know, the Synod in Convention this past summer adopted a Resolution (4-04A) that in part calls for welcoming and encouraging the development and use of new liturgical settings (see *Proceedings* pp.148-149). A new hymnal certainly seems a ways off, however; even though *LSB* is ten years old, we at Pilgrim have only been using it for three years.

Pastor Galler

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,
In faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
Borne witness to the truth in ev'ry tongue:
Alleluia!

Let ev'ry instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!

—Fred Pratt Green (*LSB* 796:3, 5)

Pilgrim's new Parish Hall rises from its slab



Thanks be to God that on Monday, November 21, 2016, the contractor constructing Pilgrim's new Parish Hall with Sunday School Classrooms was able to begin work erecting the superstructure on the slab that had been poured months earlier. Work continued that short week before Thanksgiving, and the building appeared to be largely ready for the external skin to be attached the week after the holiday. *Photo: J. Galler.*

JANUARY EVENTS

ELDERS' MEETING will likely be Tuesday, January 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (date change is due to Pastor's vacation; reading assignment to be announced).

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays January 4th, 18th, and 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (not January 11th due to Pastor's vacation).

EPIPHANY DIVINE SERVICE: Join us for a special Divine Service at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 6th, the Feast of Epiphany, when the Magi worshipped the boy Jesus.

YOUTH CATECHESIS is currently scheduled for Saturdays January 7th, 21st, and 28th at 11:00 a.m. in Pastor's Study (not January 14th due to Pastor's vacation).

REPORT DEADLINE FOR VOTERS' PACKET: Please have as much as possible, including any agenda items, in by January 8th so that the Packet can be out January 15th, two full weeks before the January 29th Voters' Meeting.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, January 8th, in the Divine Service.

QUILTING BEE will change to Tuesday, January 10th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library (due to the change in the Elders' Meeting).

LWML will change to meet Tuesday, January 10th, at 6:00 p.m. (probably at a restaurant to be determined at a later date).

BLOOD DRIVE: the 14th Quarterly Kilgore Community Blood Drive we co-sponsor will be Saturday, January 21st, in the Carter BloodCare bus in our parking lot from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for February are due Sunday, January 22nd. Please submit your contributions for *your* newsletter by that time.

NORTH TEXAS CONFSSIONAL LUTHERANS' FREE CONFERENCE: Friday, January 27th, and Saturday, January 28th, at Faith Lutheran Church in Plano. Watch the bulletin for details on the theme and featured speakers.

VOTERS' MEETING Sunday, January 29th, immediately after the Divine Service in the Sanctuary. Packets should be available in the Narthex and via email by January 15th.

ONCE-A-MONTH-SOCIAL GATHERING: Give your ideas to Barbara Wuthrich. We promise to have a game night as soon as the building allows.

Pilgrim preps float for annual parade



On Saturday, November 26th, volunteers worked for hours in Remo Gualtieri and Kathy Hudson's shop to prepare Pilgrim's float for the annual Kilgore Christmas Parade, November 29, organized by the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's theme is "A Candyland Christmas", and Pilgrim's take on that is "Jesus is the sweetest gift". Shown above are Sharon Sampson, Angela Sampson, and Jeanna Watts painting the candy, and Edgar Wuthrich, Remo Gualtieri, and Danny Sampson building a new platform for the Nativity scene. Thanks to all who helped with the float in any way! All are welcome to the Chili Supper at Pilgrim following the Parade. *Photo: Beth West.*

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- 01 – Arlene Kuehn
- 03 – Kathy Hudson
- 11 – Matthew Smith
- 17 – Emma Morton
- 20 – Maggie Land
- 21 – Remo Gualtieri
- 23 – Hannah Morton
- 26 – Don Nicol
- 30 – Mary Criswell



HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES!

- 05 – Carl and Gayle Gardner
- 08 – Brady and Shannon Gage
- 15 – Erik and Dana Freeman
- 18 – Danny and Sharon Sampson
- 22 – Jerome and Sallye Key

Aging and Dying Well IN Christ Jesus:

End of Earthly Life Issues
and Ministry

An all-day retreat

Saturday, February 4, 2017



How are Christians to honor God's gift of life in a world of constantly-changing medical technology, physician-assisted suicide laws, and health insurance and financial constraints? The upcoming Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) Texas District Circuit #14 Retreat will attempt to offer some answers under the theme “Aging and Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: End-of-Earthly-Life Issues and Ministry”. All are welcome to attend and participate in the discussion.

The retreat will be held Saturday, February 4, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to about 3:00 p.m., at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Palestine, Texas. The main speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Robert



Rev. Dr. Weise

W. Weise, Professor Emeritus, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. The Rev. Dr. Weise has degrees in education, zoology, and theology and holds the only position of its kind among Lutheran seminaries in North America, focusing on the relationship between theology and the life sciences.

The Rev. Dr. Weise has titled the day's four sessions as follows: “Aging IN Christ: A Life of Fruitful Labor and Service”, “Dying Well IN Christ Jesus: The Tension”, “Physician-Assisted Suicide: Not A Picking and Choosing”, and “Always to Care and Take Care: Bearing the Burden”. He anticipates using case studies to introduce each theme and addressing practical questions that clergy and laity alike face as they deal with family-members' and their own aging and deaths.

The Circuit #14 retreats are always informative and well worth the time and trip to Palestine. Registration is expected to be around \$20 per person and includes abundant refreshments and a delightful and hearty lunch. Advance registration through your local congregation is preferred, in order to give those preparing the food (the Bethlehem LWML) the best possible idea of how many will attend, but registrations will also be taken at the door, usually beginning at 8:30 a.m. More information is available from your local pastor or the Circuit #14 Visitor, the Rev. Dennis J. Bragdon, by phone (979-966-2242) or email (djb78945@gmail.com).

Circuit #14's twelve congregations have worship sites as far north as Hawkins-Holly Lake, as far East as Nacogdoches, as far south as Lufkin, and as far west as Corsicana.

Thanks to Carla Adsit for composing the retreat's graphic using an uncredited image found online.

Mission Pilgrim supports installs first pastor

As part of its offerings to the Church at large, Pilgrim helps support Lutheran Missionary Alliance (LMA), which was established to help support liturgical, conservative Lutheran congregations in Texas, which the Texas District in general was not doing.

One of those congregations supported by LMA, St. John Lutheran Church in Frisco, Texas, installed its first pastor, the Rev. Thomas “Clint” Stark, on Sunday, October 30, 2016. (St. John, Frisco, had previously been served in part by pastors from Faith Lutheran Church, Plano.)

Another congregation supported by LMW is Cross of Christ, Waller, Texas, which has been featured in previous editions of *The Pilgrimage*.

All are welcome to send additional offerings, over and above their usual offerings to Pilgrim, to LMA at the following address:

Lutheran Missionary Alliance

P.O. Box 192

Keller, TX 76244-0192

Lutheran Missionary Alliance is affiliated with Texas Balance, Inc. Donation are tax deductible.



Members of St. John, Frisco, pose for a picture in fall of 2016. Photo: LMA.

Pilgrim’s to-date plate offerings reported

Following a request from Pilgrim’s Board of Elders, Pilgrim’s Treasurer reports the following figures for 2015 through November 20th (47/52 weeks)

Undesignated Plate Offerings received:	\$117,034.98
Undesignated Plate Offerings projected:	\$126,836.73
Accrued expenses to date:	\$109,420.32
Projected expenses per budget:	\$139,244.96

Tyler Watts
Treasurer

Editors’ Note: Pilgrim did not receive the latest Church Extension Fund rate slip before this newsletter went to print, but you can always check out the current rates at www.texascef.org. Remember that your investments with CEF help you, Pilgrim, and others in the Texas District.

Please pray as our congregation has been requested to pray



The following are the petitions requested of our congregation that we usually include in the Prayer of the Church in the Divine Service, as well as encourage our members to make in their own personal prayers. If you are not presently receiving prayer updates by email or phone call and desire to do so, please let Pastor Galler know (likewise let Pastor Galler know if you are receiving them and wish not to receive them). If you initially made one of the requests below, please regularly keep Pastor Galler updated as to the status of the request so that he can update the congregation. Thank you!

CHRISTIANS BEING PERSECUTED WORLDWIDE LCMS, DISTRICT, AND CIRCUIT, PASTORS AND PEOPLE

Rev. Kenneth L. Bunge, pastor-elect, and First Lutheran Church, Lufkin.
Vacancies at Our Savior, Centerville, and Redeemer, Nacogdoches.
Our member Rev. Michael Monterastelli, serving elsewhere as needed.

OUR PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Budgeting and Nominating processes
Faithful stewardship of God's gifts
Safe and speedy construction of the new Parish Hall

THOSE NOT YET INCLUDED IN OR WHO HAVE STRAYED FROM THE FAITH:

Jessa Key (Jerome and Sallye's granddaughter who has not yet been baptized)
Elizabeth & Ava Nicol (Don and Beth's niece and grand-niece)

THOSE STRUGGLING WITH TEMPTATIONS AND SINS RELATED TO SEXUALITY FOR AN END TO THE EVILS OF ABORTION

PEACE AND UNITY IN THE COUNTRY AND WORLD

MEN IN THE SERVICE:

Victor Guinn (Paul Guinn's son, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton)
George C. Heil (assigned to shore duty in Virginia)
Brian Holcombe (Carolyn Holcombe's son stationed in Washington, D.C.)

THOSE IN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Sam Morton (Longview Fire Department)

THOSE WHO TRAVEL:

Brady Gage
David Navaille
Edgar and Barbara Wuthrich

SHUT-INS:

Bob Abraham (in an Alzheimer Center in Austin)
Gwen Heil (Carriage Inn Assisted Living in Katy)

THOSE WHO NEED HEALING:

Steve Atchinson (Betty Miller's grandson, arm amputated after work accident)
Moselle Barton (Connie Wilburn's friend, suffering from lung cancer)
Kay Crouch (Danny Sampson's shirt-tail relative, slow recovery from recent surgery)
Chad Ellis (Brandy's husband, home from the hospital after apparent stomach virus)
Maxine Harris (Arcele and Connie's friend's mother, suffering from terminal cancer)
Sherry Harris (Beth Nicol's friend, changing chemotherapy to find one that works)
Debby Henry (Pastor's friend, breast cancer surgery 11/15, other treatment pending)
Don Herrell (Sharon Sampson's brother-in-law letting his cancer run its course)

Prayer list continues on the following page.

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Lita Holstein (Beth West's great aunt suffering from breast cancer)
Kathy Jennings (Remo and Kathy's friend, making progress against her cancer)
Laura Key (Jerome's step-mother, continuing to decline in nursing home)
Sallye Key (doing better but still recovering from car accident 3/29)
Carl London (Connie Wilburn's coworker, cancer has returned, couple of years to live)
Tommy McPherson (former member, apparently has several tumors now)
Herb Michel (relative of Pastor's friends, healing at home but with behavioral concerns)
Maureen Michel (Pastor's friend, reportedly has ovarian cancer)
Betty Miller (our member, suffering from more pain than usual and other issues)
Beth Nicol (procedure to relieve pain 10/14)
Don Nicol (out of the hospital, reprogrammed pacemaker seems to be working)
Pat Olson (Wilburns' friend, sixth round of cancer)
Mike Powell (David Navaille's friend, hip-replacement surgery)
Larry Reif (our member, back at his apartment but still needing care and help)
Debbie Smith (our member, recovering from knee-replacement surgery 11/15)
Vincent Vernon (Walkers' brother-in-law, diagnosed with cancer but no treatment)
Rev. Harold Wageman (former PLC pastor, at Henderson Rehab)
Pat Welch (Beth Nicol's friend, suffering from Parkinson's, now in a wheelchair)
Carter Wilbanks (shirt-tail acquaintance of the Sampsons, doing better at home)
Robert Wiles (Betty Miller's nephew, untreatable cancer, remains on a feeding tube)
Rhett Wilkins (shirt-tail relative of the Wuthriches, viral infection but at home)
Van Willey (Remo and Kathy's friend, out of immediate threat but exploring options)

EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Brittany Manglam (Jeanna Watts's best friend, so far so good with baby girl)

FAMILIES IN CRISIS OR NEED AND ALL FAMILIES

Erickson Family (new college graduate Tiffani continues to seek employment)
Heil Family (Julia and her daughters, George C's family, and Bryn and Christine)
Smith Family (various needs extended throughout Kansas, Texas, and Alabama)
Thomas Family (Leroy's sons and grandchildren)
Watts Family (seeking God's guidance)
Wilbanks Family (shirt-tail acquaintances of the Sampsons, car-accident aftermath)

FEBRUARY EVENTS

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library

AGING AND DYING WELL IN CHRIST JESUS: Annual Circuit #14 Retreat, Saturday, February 4th, from about 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (see article elsewhere in this newsletter).

QUILTING BEE likely Tuesday, February 7th, at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

LWML MEETING AND SUPPER likely Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m. after Quilting.

YOUTH CATECHESIS Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. (not February 4th due to the Circuit Retreat).

ELDERS Tuesday, February 14th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room/Library.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES for March are due Sunday, February 19th.

KIDS' PAGE

“Mary brought forth her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)



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DECEMBER 2016

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

www.pilgrimlc.org
903-984-4333

Pastor's Regular Study Hours
 Tuesday 5:00–8:00 PM
 Wednesday–Friday 9:00 AM–Noon
 Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Communion Assistant –John Walker Acolyte –Cooper Sampson Cleaning Volunteers – Your Name Here?				1 Pastor at North Texas Confessional Lutherans' Study Group in Plano	2	3 10:00 AM Willows Service 11:00 AM to Noon Youth Catechesis
4 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 4:00 PM Christmas Party at the Watts' Jack Watts (B)	5	6 Noon Ministerial Fellowship Lunch	7 7:00 PM Advent Vespers John Morton (B)	8 Circuit Pastors meet in Athens	9	10 11:00 AM to Noon Youth Catechesis
11 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service 1:15 PM Possible Christmas Caroling to Nursing Homes	12 1:00-6:00 PM Cleaning Ladies	13 6:00 PM Elders	14 7:00 PM Advent Vespers Service	15 Toni Erickson (B) M/M Ron Morton(A)	16 Andrew Adair(B)	17 11:00 AM to Noon Youth Catechesis Leroy Thomas (B) M/M Don Nicol(A)
18 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service John Walker (B)	19	20 Anna Hooge (B)	21 2:30 PM LWML Birthday Party at Kilg. Hlth. & Rehab 7:00 PM Vespers (tree trimming after) Ticia Smith (B)	22 M/M Wayne Miller (A)c	23	24 EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS (W) 6:00 PM Candlelight Service of Readings and Hymns
25 THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (W) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Bryn Heil (B)	26 M/M Wendell Holcombe (A)	27	28 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	29	30	31 EVE OF THE NAMING OF JESUS 7:00 PM Divine Service (ORLC)



JANUARY 2017

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 Saturday Noon–3:00 PM

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 CIRCUMCISION AND NAMING OF OUR LORD (W) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Arlene Kuehn (B)	2	3 6:00 PM Elders Kathy Hudson (B)	4 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	5 M/M Carl Gardner (A)	6 EIPHANY 7:00 PM Divine Service	7 11:00 Jr .Cat. Reports and items for Voters' Packet due tomorrow
8 THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (W) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service (with Officer etc. Installation) M/M Brady Gage (A)	9 1:00-6:00 PM Cleaning Ladies	10 5:00 PM Quilting 6:00 PM LWML Mtg	11 Matthew Smith (B)	12	13	14
Pastor Galler on vacation (an Elder will answer the Church phone and contact the on-call pastor as needed)						
15 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EIPHANY (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service M/M Erik Freeman (A)	16	17 Emma Morton (B)	18 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study M/M Danny Sampson (A)	19 Circuit Pastors meet in Gun Barrel City	20	21 9:00 -1:00 Blood 11:00 Catechesis Newsletter articles due tomorrow Remo Gualtieri (B).
Pastor Galler on vacation (an Elder will answer the Church phone)						
22 3RD SUNDAY AFTER THE EIPHANY (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service M/M Jerome Key (A))	23 HANNAH MORTON (B)	24 5:30 Pastor prays at Kilgore City Council	25 7:00 PM Midweek Bible Study	26 Don Nicol (B)	27	28 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 0 auto; width: fit-content;"> Free Conference in Plano </div>
29 4TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EIPHANY (G) 9:30-10:30 AM SS & Bible Class 10:45 AM Divine Service Voters' Meeting (following the Service)	30 Mary Criswell (B)	31	Communion Assistant – Steven Sampson Acolyte – Matthew Hooge Cleaning Volunteers – Your Name Here?			

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
713 Florey Street
Kilgore, Texas 75662-3503

The Pilgrimage is a monthly newsletter for the members and friends of



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Pastor Galler and Barbara Wuthrich are the editors of **The Pilgrimage**. Barbara Wuthrich also assists with producing and distributing editions. Everyone is welcome to contribute articles at any time. All copyright holders of excerpted or reproduced materials are hereby acknowledged, and such materials are used in good faith under fair use provisions.